



As We Gather The Epiphany of Our Lord Jan.7, 2024

The Twelve Days of our Christmas celebration have come to an end. But the miraculous birth of the Son of God is only the beginning of the story. Today, Matthew uses the word “behold,” showing what may seem a surprise to some. “Behold, wise men from the east” (Matthew 2:1). “Behold, the star that they had seen” (Matthew 2:9). Today we say, behold, Christmas is a much bigger thing than many have thought. It is nothing less than the gift of salvation to all who believe. This epiphany has invaded your darkness through the water and the Word of your Holy Baptism, through the Word of God preached in your hearing, and through the receiving of our Lord’s very body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar to sustain that gift, that epiphany of faith to the end of days. By faith you have made a very good beginning.

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**Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.**

A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones. Thank You.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- *Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- *Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- *Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- *Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

Please Note

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church to come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

PRELUDE Prelude in G Minor – J.S. Bach
WELCOME

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN #397 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 124:8*

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P I confess to almighty God,

C before all the company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray almighty God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, His Son, to have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

P Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Blessed be the LORD forever!

C Amen and Amen.

WORD

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For peace shining down on us from above and for the salvation of all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For peace so that the Church of God would more brightly shine the light of the Gospel in the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all who join us here to thank God for the unsearchable riches of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE LSB 790

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Epiphany*

- P** Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Gracious God of endings and beginnings, we commit to Your grace and forgiveness the year now being completed and commend to Your kindness and love the year about to begin. Throughout the coming weeks and months make the presence of Your Holy Spirit known in our lives, drawing us ever closer to Jesus and uniting all generations of Your faithful people in bonds of love and care, as we continue to grow in our baptismal grace and await the joy of

eternal life in Your glorious presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 60:1–6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING Romans 6:1–11

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

- P** Alleluia. Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?
C For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 2:1–12**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY #395 “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” sts. 1-4

SERMON “Living In Reality” Romans 6:1-11

INSTALLATION OF MLC CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of our fathers in faith, and God of light, we praise You and give You thanks, above all for revealing Your gracious will of salvation through the lamp of Your Word, through the light of Your Christ. In Jesus, the light of Your salvation has shone in the hearts of people of all nations. Hear our prayers for the life and salvation of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** [*Petitions...*] Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.
- C** **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *LSB 805*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711 Text: Public domain)

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your

glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *LSB 178*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI *LSB 210*

- C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Text: Stephen P. Starke)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES LSB 970 sing twice

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, Beau - ti - ful

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. Em -

man - u - el, God is with us, Bless - ed Re -

deem - er, liv - ing Word.

(Text and tune: Naida Hearn, 1930–2001 Text and tune: © 1974, 1978 Scripture in Song, admin. Music Services (ASCAP).
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#394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

#370 What Child Is This

#412 The People That in Darkness Sat

#411 I Want to Walk as a Child of Light

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray. O Almighty God, ruler of all things, we bless You for having joined us to Christ through this blessed Meal. Grant that the Holy Spirit graciously intercede for us and direct our ways that we do the good works intended for us to do and, faithfully waiting for Your return in glory, joyfully continue our earthly pilgrimage until we are gathered into Your heavenly kingdom to share in Your blessings for all eternity. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

HYMN #825 “Rise, Shine, You People”

+ + +

ANNOUNCEMENTS/POSTLUDE

Reader Today: Sherri Church

PRAYERS: **Dave Frickel**, hospital for pneumonia; **Aaron**, (step-son of Jan Crouch) brain cancer; **Simon**, (cousin of Roger Takashita), brain cancer.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tues Jan 9	10:00 a.m.	LWA meeting(Lutheran Women's Auxiliary)
Wed. Jan. 10	11:00 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
Thur. Jan. 11	10:30 a.m.	Grief Group
Thur. Jan. 11	11:00 a.m.	Jesus Time (Preschool)
Thur. Jan. 11	11:30 a.m.	Outdoor Nativity disassembly
Thur. Jan. 11	1:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Thur. Jan. 11	3:00 p.m.	Choir
Sat. Jan. 13	1:00 p.m.	MLC Game Day (board & card)
Sunday Jan.14	8:30 Bible Study	10:00 a.m. Worship

Please note: **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will resume **Wed. Jan. 24th**.

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1 Alice Hampsten

Jan. 4 Scott Asay	Jan. 4 Renee Havener
Jan. 13 Bonnie Holtz	Jan. 18 Bonnie Semmler
Jan. 20 Annie Black	Jan. 23 Greg Larson
Jan. 26 David Gnacinski	Jan. 26 Jim Jones
Jan. 26 Ruby Stuart	Jan. 30 Beverly Brack
Jan. 30 Joan Samuelson	Jan. 31 Jeff Meckley

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 31 Gordon & Carol Shepherd

GAME (Card & Board) DAY MLC! **Saturday, January 13th 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.** or whenever you're done playing! Plan on joining us **every 2nd Saturday of the month.** It's also an opportunity to bring your non-churched friends to some non-threatening fun and fellowship! Bring your favorite game or we'll provide some - easy to learn. Wear your favorite team jersey/shirt or come as you are!

Thank you, dear friends, for your love and support as we miss my mom, Mary. We appreciate all your kindnesses and prayers. Barbara and Tom Coverdale

RED ROCK ZONE 31/32 LWML 2024 PRAYER AND PRAISE

EVENT February 3, 2024 9:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m. Ingathering: Bring food item for Lutheran Social Service food pantry. **RSVP by January 24, 2024** **To: Barbara Coverdale, Zone Secretary, bcoverda@wyoming.com** Or Kathi Anderson, VP Gospel Outreach, text to: 702-427-4186. Gathering At: First Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 301 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas. Joyfully let's gather together!

THANK YOU MLC CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS who have consented or continue to serve and those who have faithfully served in the past!

2024 MLC Congregational Officers

President Jim Bean

Vice President (vacant)

Treasurer Sherri Church

Secretary Barbara Coverdale

Elder Jeff Meckley

Trustee Dan Samuelson

Childcare Board Paul Havens

At-Large Jim Hinson

At-Large Jan Aslin

Thank you to Gordon Shepherd, Sheri Asay, Juls Gerads, and Bob Sennett for their dedicated and faithful service to the Lord and for their great blessings to us, the Lord's church!

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